

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF SEVENOAKS

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Annual Report

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

*for*

1940

*together with the*

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

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Tonbridge

TONBRIDGE FREE PRESS, LTD.

129 High Street. Tel. 18



# Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

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## **R E P O R T**

FOR THE YEAR 1940

on the

Sanitary Conditions and  
Vital Statistics of the  
Sevenoaks Urban District

by the

Medical Officer of Health  
Together with the Report of  
the Sanitary Inspector



# Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

## HEALTH REPORT FOR 1940

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Health Report for the year 1940, this being the eighteenth one submitted by me as your Medical Officer of Health.

The Report is again this year curtailed as far as possible in accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health, and only contains such information as it is essential to record.

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General for mid-year 1940 was 13,950, as compared with 12,780 last year.

The Birth Rate for the year showed an increase, being 14.3 per thousand of population, as against 12.6 last year.

An increase also took place in the Death Rate, this being 13.6 per thousand of population, as compared with 10.6 last year.

The Infantile Mortality Rate only showed a very slight increase, this being 45 per thousand registered births, as compared with 44 last year.

From the point of view of incidence of Infectious Disease the year was a fairly satisfactory one.

In presenting this Report, I beg to thank the Council and its Officers for their help and assistance. In particular I would like to place on record the efficient and loyal services rendered by Mr. Gypps and the Health Visitor, Miss Allibone.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. N. CAVE,

Medical Officer of Health.

# Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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## STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

P. N. CAVE, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

W. J. GYPPS, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor :

Miss E. M. ALLIBONE

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ..	3,720
Population, 1939 ... ..	12,780
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1940	13,950
Number of occupied houses, December, 1940 ... ..	4,058
Rateable value of district, December, 1940 ... ..	£164,022
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£644

## VITAL STATISTICS

			Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Live Births:						
Legitimate ... ..	190	97	93			
Illegitimate ... ..	10	6	4			
Total ... ..	200	103	97			14.3

						Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.
Stillbirths ... ..	7	2	5			33.8

						Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Deaths ... ..	191	106	85			13.6

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	Nil
Other puerperal causes ... ..	Nil

### Infant Deaths:

	No. of deaths.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
All Infants ... ..	9	45

		Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births.
Legitimate Infants ... ..	8	42

		Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births.
Illegitimate Infants ... ..	1	100

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	Nil

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following Table shows the number of cases notified during the year, together with the number removed to hospital and the total deaths:—

Disease	Number notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	15	14	...
Diphtheria	10	10	...
Typhoid Fever	4	4	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...
Pneumonia	3	...	9*
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>

\* all forms



**BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF  
MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORALITY and CASE RATES  
for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1940.**

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000, 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Sevenoaks Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
<b>BIRTHS:</b>					
Live ... ..	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7	14.3
Still ... ..	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44	0.5
<b>DEATHS:</b>					
All Causes ... ..	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8	13.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01	0.00
Influenza ... ..	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18	0.21
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under one year of age ... ..	55	61	54	50	45
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age ... ..	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8	...
Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population					
<b>NOTIFICATIONS:</b>					
Enteric ... ..	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0.32	0.23	0.29	0.28	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	1.34	1.29	1.35	0.22	...
Diphtheria ... ..	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.61	...
Erysipelas ... ..	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.35	...
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	10.24	9.23	9.99	1.78	...
Pneumonia ... ..	1.20	1.37	1.00	0.87	...
Rates per 1 000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)					
<b>MATERNAL MORTALITY:</b> (excluding Abortion)					
Puerperal Infection No. 147)	0.52	Not available.			0.00
Others ... ..	1.64				0.00
Total ... ..	2.16				0.00
<b>NOTIFICATIONS:</b>					
Puerperal Fever ... ..	11.96	13.90	9.73 *	3.34 13.30 *	including Puerperal Fever.
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..					

A ... signifies that there were no deaths



## TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table shows the number of new cases notified, together with the number of deaths registered:—

	Notified			Deaths		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
<b>Pulmonary</b>	5	4	9	5	...	5
<b>Non-Pulmonary</b>	2	...	2	2	...	2
<b>Totals</b>	7	4	11	7	...	7

Treatment for cases of Tuberculosis is under the control of the Kent County Council, and during the year the following number of patients have received treatment:—

Patients receiving sanatorium treatment	...	...	...	47
Patients receiving dispensary treatment	...	...	...	8
Dispensary supervision only	...	...	...	134

## PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 176

No action was required to be taken under the above during the year.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of new cases treated during the year was 526, the total number of attendances being 772.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL

During the year the following number of cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to the Isolation Hospital:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

In addition, 44 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted under an agreement with the Kent County Council.

During the year 22 cases of Tuberculosis were discharged improved, and 8 died.

## LABORATORY WORK

The Kent County Laboratory at Maidstone carries out the bacteriological work in connection with this District.

During the year the following number of specimens have been examined there:—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs for Diphtheria ... ..	5	106	111
Sputa for Tubercle ... ..	77	66	143
Totals	82	172	254

## DRAINAGE

No important changes in the drainage of the District took place during the year.

## SANITARY STATISTICS

No. of Houses connected to the sewer	No. of Houses not connected to sewers	No. of Houses not provided with a piped water supply	No. of wells still in use for purpose of domestic supply
3858	144	—	—

## SANITARY CONVENIENCES

W.C.s	Pan or Pail Closets	Midden Privies	Ashpits separate from Midden Privies	Cesspools	
				No. of	No. of houses into
5783	5	2	3	133	140

## WATER SUPPLY

During the year 972 yards of 6in. main were laid to replace an equal distance of old mains.

## HOUSING

### 1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	6
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	24
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	1

### 2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	6
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### 3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners ... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil



## (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:
- (a) By owners ... Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

## (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

## (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

**4.—Housing Act, 1936: Part IV, Overcrowding.**

- (a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of year ... 3
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 1
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 8
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 1
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 6
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.



- (c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which you may consider it desirable to report.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
By other persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

### HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

No important alterations were made in the method and disposal of house refuse during the year.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Maternity and Child Welfare work is under the control of the Urban District Council.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:

#### ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Number of sessions held	...	...	...	...	...	12
Total attendances	...	...	...	...	...	141
Average attendance per session	...	...	...	...	...	12

#### CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

						Residents.	Evacuees.
Number of names on register:							
Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	243	30
Children	...	...	...	...	...	279	39
Number of attendances:							
Mothers	...	...	...	...	...	2,812	92
Children	...	...	...	...	...	3,453	85
Number of sessions held: 53.							
Average attendance per session: 65.							

### SUNLIGHT TREATMENT

During the year 16 sessions were held, at which 213 treatments were given to 22 children.

## VOLUNTARY WORKERS

I again wish to place on record my high appreciation of the work carried out during the year 1940 by the voluntary workers in connection with the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. The work has been increased and complicated by the evacuation problem and the number of extra children who had to be looked after as a result of it. Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of the voluntary workers, all difficulties have been overcome and a really satisfactory year's work has been the result.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria has been carried out amongst children under the age of five as well as amongst school children, and this has been one of the most satisfactory features under review.

## FREE AND ASSISTED SUPPLY OF MILK

Milk supplied free: 54 pints.

Dried milk supplied free: 47 lbs.

Dried milk supplied at cost price: 8 lbs.

The operation of the National Milk Scheme commenced on the 1st July, 1940.

## HEALTH VISITOR

One full-time Health Visitor is employed by the Council, who works under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year she has paid the following number of visits:

Primary visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,869
Visits re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Visits re Diphtheria Immunisation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	413
Total								2,580

## NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES

The powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to Nursing and Maternity Homes have been delegated to the District Council by the County Council.

There are six registered premises in this District, the number of beds available being 16 for maternity cases and 21 for other cases.

## SCHOOLS

There are four elementary and two secondary schools within the District.

## REGULATED TRADES

	No. of Premises	Visits Paid	Defects	
			Found	Remedied
Dairies.	9	122	3	3
Cowsheds.				
Slaughterhouses	2	598	3	3
Licensed				
Registered	7	44	2	2
Bakehouses.				
Other food pre- paring places	34	119	4	4
Factories.	27	3	2	2
Workshops	47	23	...	...
Workplaces.	6	...	...	...
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...
Houses-Let-in- Lodgings	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936

The following number of licences were granted by the Council during the year:

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pasteuriser's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The following number of samples of milk have been examined during the year:

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ordinary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hospital supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

Total ... .. 39

**MEAT**

The following Table shows the work done in connection with slaughterhouses :

**CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	1175	495	663	7861	5024
Number Inspected ... ..	1175	495	663	7861	5024
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	5	1	4	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	24	2	1	19	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	2.3	1.41	0.3	0.3	0.3
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	7	22	1	...	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	74	4	...	...	134
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	7.85	5.85	...	...	2.7



## **SHOPS ACT**

During the year 52 inspections of shops were made, and three contraventions relating to sanitary conveniences were dealt with.

## **SMOKE ABATEMENT**

No action was required with respect to nuisances from the emission of smoke.

## **SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS**

There is one public swimming bath in the District. The water is passed through a continuous filtration plant.

During the year two samples of the water were examined, both of which were satisfactory.

## **ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYELAWS**

No adoptive Acts or Byelaws were adopted during the year.

## **ERADICATION OF BED BUGS**

No Council houses were found to be infested during the year.

Two other houses were disinfested during the year by the Zyklon process under the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations, 1938, and three houses were dealt with by the owners by other means.



## DEATHS REGISTERED as occurring during 1940.

Disease	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid Fever, etc. ... ..	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever... ..	..	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	...	5
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	2	...	2
Influenza ... ..	2	1	3
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Acute Infantile Encephalitis ... ..	...	1	1
Cancer of Bronchial Cavity ... ..	1	1	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	...	3
Cancer of the Breast ... ..	...	2	2
Cancer, all other forms ... ..	7	6	13
Diabetes ... ..	...	...	...
Intra cranial vasc. lesions ... ..	5	10	15
Heart disease ... ..	27	26	53
Other diseases of circulating system	3	1	4
Bronchitis ... ..	7	7	14
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	4	5	9
Other respiratory diseases .. ..	3	...	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...	...
Appendicitis ... ..	1	...	1
Other digestive diseases ... ..	4	1	5
Nephritis ... ..	3	...	3
Post and post-abortion. sepsis ... ..	...	...	...
Other maternal causes ... ..	...	...	...
Premature Birth ... ..	1	1	2
Congenital malformation and birth injury ... ..	3	...	3
Suicide ... ..	2	1	3
Road traffic accidents ... ..	...	...	...
Other violent causes ... ..	9	10	19
All other causes ... ..	13	11	24
TOTALS ... ..	106	85	191

# Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

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## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

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Council Offices,  
Argyle Road,  
Sevenoaks.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you a summary of the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1940.

### GENERAL INSPECTIONS

The routine inspections of the District under the Public Health Acts, Factory and Workshop Act, Milk and Dairies Order, Milk (Special Designations) Order, and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations have been carried out.

The duties and powers of the Shops Acts, 1912-1934, together with the Retail Meat Dealers' Shops Sunday Closing Act and the Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act are being administered by your Council under delegation from the Kent County Council.

### HOUSING

Very little work has been carried out during the year in connection with the inspection of houses, owing to the pressure of other duties. Very few complaints have been received, but these were dealt with by informal action.

### WATER SUPPLY

No complaints were received during the year of the domestic water supply. One sample was taken each month from various parts of the District and submitted for bacteriological examination to the County Laboratories. The reports upon these were all satisfactory.

During the year the following new mains were laid by the Sevenoaks Water Works Company:

951 yards of 8in. in Oak Lane.

21 yards of 8in. Bat and Ball (Otford Road).

272 yards of 6in. Bat and Ball (Otford Road).

About 400 yards of the 8in. main in Oak Lane was in replacement of an old 4in., and the whole of the new 6in. at Bat and Ball replaced an old main.



Four samples of water were taken from the Council's Public Baths in Eardley Road for examination during the year, and the reports upon these were very satisfactory.

### **DRAINAGE**

There were no extensions to the main sewerage system of the district or to the surface water sewers during the year.

Two new properties were connected to the sewers during the year.

### **MILK SUPPLIES**

The milk supply in the District proved on the whole to be very satisfactory. The pasteurising plant at Clenches Farm is regularly inspected and samples taken to ascertain that the milk complies with the Milk (Special Designations) Order.

There is one Dairy Farm in the area at which Accredited Milk is produced.

During the year the following samples were submitted to the County Laboratories, Maidstone:—

Ordinary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

### **SLAUGHTERHOUSE, MEAT & FOOD INSPECTIONS**

During the year I have made a special point of keeping up Inspections under this heading.

In January, 1940, two of the Slaughterhouses in the town were taken over by the Ministry of Food, and Mr. R. A. Inge was appointed by the Ministry as Local Slaughterhouse Manager.

Under the Government Scheme, Inspection of Meat still remains the responsibility of the Local Authority, and as all local slaughterhouses are closed and the two slaughterhouses in the town are used for the killing of a fairly wide area, this branch of my work has considerably increased.

I would like to record that, on the whole, the Government Scheme of killing and the Meat Inspection on our side has worked extremely well, as it was never visualized that the local slaughterhouses would have to handle so many carcasses. The Government Slaughterhouse Manager and the Slaughtering Contractor have at all times ably assisted me in my work, and I would also like to express my appreciation of the voluntary services rendered by Mr. A. D. Lofts, the Sanitary Inspector for the Rural Area, who has willingly given up his time to assist me in this important work.

As a matter of interest I am giving the number of animals which were killed in the slaughterhouses from the date the Ministry of Food took over (January 15th, 1940) to the end of the year:—

1,132 Cattle; 652 Calves; 4,966 Pigs; 7,809 Sheep.

During the year the amount of unsound meat which was dealt with at the slaughterhouses was 17 tons 9 lbs. This unsound meat is dealt with under the Ministry of Food Salvage Scheme. The Slaughterhouse Manager is required to keep accurate records of all condemnations, and all the meat is removed by the Government Contractor to be dealt with.

In addition to the above, 10 dozen eggs and 5 cwts. 56 lbs. of other food were also surrendered and disposed of as unfit for human consumption.

### SUMMARY

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers Order, I give below the number and nature of inspections carried out:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	598
Food Preparing Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Factory and Workshop Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Total									1,402

Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

A.R.P. work has again claimed much time from my Department, as has also the work under the Fuel and Lighting Order, under which I act as Local Fuel Overseer. Both Mr. S. C. Clark and Mr. N. F. Webber joined His Majesty's Forces during the early part of the year, and Miss O. Matthews was appointed to assist in the work of my Department, and to these I would like to add my thanks for their assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. J. GYPPS,

Sanitary Inspector.





